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WEST MERSEA URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

1960

MINISTRY OF HEALTH

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

MRS. I. GANT

MR. C. A. MUSSETT

MR. E. A. VINCE

9 - APR 1963
TROPICAL MEDICINE

Medical Officer of Health:
E. A. HARGREAVES, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Public Health Inspector:
E. J. BANNER, M.Inst.H.E., A.R.San.I.

Rebow Chambers,

Colchester.

18th September, 1961.

Mr. Chairman, Lady and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting my Annual Report on the Health and Vital Statistics of the District for the year 1960.

I have the honour to be

Your obedient servant,

E. A. HARGREAVES.

WEST MERSEA URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Statistics and Social Circumstances of the Area

Area	2,683 acres
Registrar General's estimate of resident population	3,196
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1960) according to Rate Book	1,290
Rateable Value	£35,537
Sum represented by a penny rate	£143

SOCIAL CONDITIONS

The district is the western portion of Mersea Island which lies between the estuaries of the rivers Blackwater and Colne. The nearest town is Colchester, situated about 9½ miles to the north.

As a summer health resort, it attracts a large number of holiday makers, many of whom enjoy some excellent sailing.

The main industries are agriculture, fishing, building and yacht building, etc.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR

		M.	*F.*	*Total.*
Live births:	All	22	22	44
	Legitimate	22	22	44
	Illegitimate	–	–	–
Birth rate per 1,000 estimated resident population:			14.0	
Comparability factor:	....		1.24	
Corrected birth rate:	....		17.4	
England and Wales:	....		17.1	
Still births:	All	–	–	–
	Legitimate	–	–	–
	Illegitimate	–	–	–
Stillbirth rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births:			–	
England and Wales:	....		19.7	
Total births:	....		44	
Infant deaths:	All	–	–	–
	Legitimate	–	–	–
	Illegitimate	–	–	–
In 1st week:	All	–	–	–
Infant Mortality rate per 1,000 live births:			–	
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births:			–	
Infant mortality rate, England and Wales:			21.7	
Neonatal mortality rate per 1,000 live births:			–	
Early neonatal mortality rate (1st week) per 1,000 related births:	....		–	
Perinatal mortality rate (stillbirths plus deaths during 1st week per 1,000 total live and still births):			–	
Percentage of illegitimate live births:	....		–	

Maternal deaths:			–
Maternal mortality rate:			–
Deaths:	*M.*	*F.*	
	21	19	40
Death rate per 1,000 estimated resident population:			12.4
Corrected death rate:			8.7
England and Wales:			11.5
Comparability factor:			.7

Deaths in various age groups (local statistics)

Age.	*No. of Deaths.*
0– 1 year	–
1– 2 years	–
2– 5 years	–
5–15 years	–
15–25 years	–
25–35 years	1
35–45 years	2
45–55 years	2
55–65 years	7
65–75 years	6
75–85 years	12
85 & over	10
	40

CAUSES OF DEATH

	M.	*F.*	*Total.*
Malignant Neoplasm of Stomach	1	–	1
Lung, bronchus	1	–	1
Breast	–	1	1
Uterus	–	1	1
Respiratory T.B.	1	–	1
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	1	2	3
Vascular lesions of nervous system	4	3	7
Coronary disease, angina	4	3	7
Hypertension with heart disease	1	–	1
Other heart disease	3	3	6
Other circulatory disease	–	1	1
Pneumonia	–	4	4
Bronchitis	1	–	1
Other diseases of respiratory system	–	1	1
Ulcer of stomach or duodenum	1	–	1
Hyperplasia of prostate	1	–	1
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	2	–	2
	21	19	40

27 people died in West Mersea.
13 people died out of the area (all in various Institutions).

National Assistance Acts, 1948-51

No action was taken under these Acts.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA

Public Health Officers of the Local Authority

Medical Officer of Health—E. A. Hargreaves, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H. He is employed part-time; he devotes the remainder of his time to two neighbouring authorities and to the County Council.

Public Health Inspector—E. J. Banner, M.Inst.H.E., A.R.San.I. He is also employed as Surveyor to the Council.

Laboratory Facilities

There has been no change in the facilities described in the last report.

The Laboratories available are situated at:

The Essex County Hospital, Colchester.
The Public Health Laboratory, Woodbridge Road, Ipswich.
The Counties Laboratory, 66 Victoria Street, London, S.W.1.

Ambulance

Non-emergency ambulance calls are not accepted from the general public.

To obtain an ambulance in an emergency it is merely necessary to lift the telephone receiver and ask for an ambulance. If there is a dialling system in operation dial "999," "O" or "O1" and ask for an ambulance.

Health Services provided by the Essex County Council

Ante-natal and post-natal clinics.
Midwives.
Nursing in the home.
Health visiting.
Mental welfare.
Home helps.
Vaccination and diphtheria immunisation.
Provision of nursing equipment and apparatus.
School health service.

Ante-natal and post-natal clinics are held at the Health Services Clinic, Culver Street, Colchester, at 2.30 p.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

Infant Welfare Clinics are held at the Church Hall on the second Wednesday in each month at 2.15 p.m.

Welfare foods are obtainable from:

Mersea Stores, Yorick Road, West Mersea.
Central Stores, Barfield Road, West Mersea.

Assistance from the Home Help Service is obtained by communicating with the Area Organiser, Area Office, Trinity Street, Colchester (Telephone: Colchester 6251, Ext. 3).

Health Services provided by the Regional Hospital Board

Tuberculosis.—The Chest Clinic is situated at St. Mary's Hospital, Colchester, and is open daily.

V.D.—Sessions held at the Essex County Hospital on Mondays, 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. for males and females, and Fridays, 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. for males and females.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

WATER

The water supply is obtained from a deep bore on the island owned by the Council. The water is chlorinated and has been sufficient in quantity. The water is salty to the taste as it contains a high proportion of chlorides. Flourine is also present in sufficient quantity to cause mottling of the teeth.

A few houses at the eastern end of the District are supplied by a neighbouring authority, whose water main traverses the District at this point.

Water main extensions have been carried out in East Road, Broomhills Road, Prince Albert Road, Victoria Esplanade, Alexandra Avenue, Willoughby Avenue, Rainbow Road and Queen Anne Road.

The number of samples submitted for analysis during the year was:

Chemical.	*Bacteriological.*
1	10

A typical Chemical Analysis in Parts per Million

Appearance.—Faint opalescence with a slight deposit. Microscopical examination—Mineral matter and organic debris.

Colour	5	*Turbidity less than*	3
pH	8.2	*Odour*	Nil
Electric Conductivity	3000	*Free Carbon Dioxide*	absent
Chlorine present as Chloride	760	*Disolved Solids dried at 180° C.*	2000
Hardness: Total	75	*Alkalinity as Calcium Carbonate*	395
Nitrate Nitrogen	1.1	*Non-carbonate*	0
Ammoniacal Nitrogen	0.58	*Nitrite Nitrogen*	approx. 0.01
Albuminoid Nitrogen	0.041	*Oxygen Absorbed*	0.50
Iron:	0.06	*Residual Chlorine*	–
Metals: Zinc, Copper, Lead, Manganese:	absent		
Flouride	6.0		

A typical Bacteriological Result

Probable numbers per 100 ml.

Coliform bacilli	....	0
Bact. coli (type 1)	....	0

The number of houses supplied from the Council's mains is	1,220
The number of houses supplied from the mains of a neighbouring authority is	31
The number of houses supplied from standpipes (with an approximate populaton of 60) is	49
The number of houses connected to the main during the year was	52

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR'S REPORT

Inspections

Houses inspected	74
Inspections under Public Health Acts	12
Butcher's shops inspected	18
Fried Fish shops inspected	10
Ice Cream stores inspected	33
Bakehouses inspected	4
Factory Acts	18
Moveable Dwellings and Caravan sites inspected	21
Dairies	5

Notices

Statutory Notices served, Public Health Acts	Nil
Informal Notices served, Public Health Acts	2
Informal Notices complied with	2
Demolition orders issued	3
Closing Orders issued	Nil

SEWAGE DISPOSAL

Forty-seven houses were connected to the sewer during the year.

HOUSING

Housing does not present the problem which is experienced by other authorities. A good proportion of the houses are owner-occupied, and the remainder are for the most part in a good state of repair. Three Demolition Orders were issued in respect of one chalet type dwelling in Fairhaven Avenue and two cottages in The Lane. One undertaking not to re-let was accepted, and negotiations for the demolition of the other two dwellings are proceeding.

REFUSE DISPOSAL

Refuse is disposed of at the Colchester Borough's controlled tip at Stanway.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES

Measles	....	27
Whooping Cough	....	5
Pneumonia	....	1
Scarlet Fever	....	1
Tuberculosis	....	1

MEAT AND OTHER FOODS

There are no licensed slaughterhouses in the district, and requirements are adequately met by slaughterhouses in Colchester.

The number of food premises registered under Section 14 of the Food and Drugs Act are: —

Sausages and Potted Meats	....	3
Ice cream premises	....	23

MOSQUITO NUISANCE

Known breeding places of mosquitoes were sprayed at intervals throughout the breeding season.

FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 and 1948

Routine inspection of factories is made at suitable intervals. The attention of the management is drawn to any defects which are observed.

Premises.	*No. on Register.*	*No. of Inspections.*
Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	11	18
Cases in which defects were found	Nil	

OUTWORK

Number of outworkers in August List required by Section 110 (*i*) (*c*).	*Irregularities Sect.* 110	*Irregularities Sect.* 111
4	Nil	Nil

Wiles & Son Ltd., Colchester